

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: PETITION OF COX RHODE ISLAND TELCOM, LLC :
FOR CERTIFICATE AS A TELECOMMUNICATIONS : DOCKET NO. 3533
CARRIER "ELIGIBLE" TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS :
FROM THE FEDERAL UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND :

ORDER

WHEREAS, On July 1, 2003, Cox Rhode Island Telcom LLC ("Cox")¹, a local exchange carrier, petitioned the Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") for designation as an "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" ("ETC") throughout its service area in the State of Rhode Island pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 214(e)²; and

WHEREAS, The request for designation as an ETC will allow Cox to receive funding and/or reimbursement from the available federal universal support mechanism; and

WHEREAS, After public notice, at a July 31, 2003 hearing, Cox demonstrated that it is in compliance with the requirement of the Federal Universal Service Order³, offers all services that are supported by the federal universal support mechanism, and advertises the availability of such services; and

WHEREAS, The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers found Cox's application to be proper and acceptable for ETC designation to receive federal universal support; and

WHEREAS, The Commission is of the opinion that Cox's petition for ETC designation is proper, complies with the federal and state requirements, and is in the interest of the ratepayers;

¹ Cox is authorized to provide telecommunications service throughout the State of Rhode Island. Order No. 15277 issued April 22, 1997.

² 47 U.S.C. 214(e) imposed statutory responsibility upon the Commission to certify telecommunications service providers as "eligible" to receive funds from the Federal Universal Service Fund.

³ Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, 12 FCC rcd. 8776, 8809-25 (1997); see 47 C.F. R. § 54.101(a).

Accordingly, it is

(17529) ORDERED:

1) Cox Rhode Island Telcom LLC is hereby designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier throughout its service area for receiving universal service support.

EFFECTIVE AT WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND ON JULY 31, 2003 PURSUANT TO BENCH DECISION. WRITTEN ORDER ISSUED ON AUGUST 6, 2003.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Elia Germani, Chairman

Kate F. Racine, Commissioner

Robert B. Holbrook, Commissioner *

*Commissioner Holbrook concurs but is unavailable for signature.